

REMARKS

No claims are amended with this paper. Therefore, claims 1-10, 58, 60, 66-67 and 69 are presently under examination.

Interview Summary

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's courtesy in permitting a telephonic interview with the undersigned representative on March 14, 2007. During the Interview, the rejection of the claims and the cited references were discussed. No final agreement was reached.

Rejection of claims under 35 USC §102(b) and/or §103(a)

Claims 1-10, 58, 60, 66-67 and 69 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, obvious under 35 USC §103(a) over Takahashi, EP1159995 ("Takahashi"). The Examiner stated that "[t]he claims are considered to read on Takahashi . . . [I]f a difference exists between the [present] claims and Takahashi . . . it would reside in optimizing the elements of Takahashi." Office Action at page 2. These statements are traversed.

As Applicants understand the reference, Takahashi discloses certain materials having a hydrophobic moiety and an ion exchange moiety (see, e.g., paragraph [0001] of Takahashi). Ion exchange groups according to Takahashi include anion exchangers such as quaternary ammonium groups, primary amino groups, secondary amino groups, tertiary amino groups, and a mixture of primary and secondary amino groups, with quaternary amines being preferred (see, e.g., Takahashi at paragraph [0033]). However, the only amines exemplified in Takahashi are quaternized tertiary amines (see, e.g., paragraphs [0036] and [0054] of Takahashi). Takahashi does not teach or suggest a porous material comprising a copolymer of at least one hydrophobic monomer and at least one hydrophilic monomer, wherein the copolymer further comprises at least one ion-exchange functional moiety selected from the group

consisting of a cyclic tertiary amine and a substituted cyclic amine, as required by present claim 1, as amended.

Although the Examiner has stated that Takahashi discloses “N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone [which] is considered to be a recited amine,” Office Action at page 8, Applicants cannot agree. As discussed during the Interview, N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone is a cyclic amide or lactam, not an amine as required by the pending claims. Amides are clearly distinct from amines and have different chemical properties. Compare the definition of amine (“Amines are organic derivatives of ammonia, NH₃, in which one or more of the hydrogen atoms is replaced by an organyl group (a substituent having a single bond from a carbon atom)”) (accessed at <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-79756/chemical-compound>) with the definition of amide (“Any member of either of two classes of nitrogen-containing organic compounds related to ammonia and amines and containing a carbonyl group (-C=O)”) (at <http://www.britannica.com/ebc/article-9355205>; emphasis supplied).

Even further, Applicants contend that Takahashi discloses N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone as a monomeric unit for polymerization, not as an ion-exchange functionality.

Therefore, Applicants urge that Takahashi does not anticipate, nor render obvious, the pending claims.

Claims 1-10, 58, 60, 66-67 and 69 stand rejected as obvious under 35 USC §103(a) over Takahashi, EP1159995 (“Takahashi”) in view of Greer (U.S. Patent No. 2,801,224) or Gilwood (U.S. Patent No. 2,824,844). The Examiner stated that “[a]t best, the claims differ from Takahashi . . . in reciting use of cyclic tertiary amines or substituted cyclic amines.” Office Action at page 2. These statements are traversed.

The teachings of Takahashi have been described above. The Examiner has cited Gilwood as allegedly teaching a “tertiary amine and also his cyclic amine . . . provide excellent anion exchanging groups.” However, as Applicants understand the reference, the Gilwood patent teaches that quaternary ammonium derivatives (Col. 5, lines 14-18) and polyalkylene polyamines (primary amines, Col. 5, lines 22-26) are preferred. According to Gilwood, among secondary amines, dimethylamine is preferred (Col. 5, lines 34-35). Thus, Gilwood teaches away from selecting the cyclic tertiary amine or substituted cyclic amine of the present claims.

The Examiner has also cited Greer as disclosing "piperazine and morpholine". However, as Applicants understand the reference, Greer is directed to the preparation of resins containing a quaternary ammonium group or groups. To the extent that non-quaternary amines are disclosed, these appear to be used only as synthetic intermediates in the preparation of quaternary ammonium groups. Greer does not teach or suggest a porous material comprising a copolymer of at least one hydrophobic monomer and at least one hydrophilic monomer, wherein said copolymer further comprises at least one ion-exchange functional moiety selected from the group consisting of a cyclic tertiary amine and a substituted cyclic amine, as claimed in pending claim 1.

In view of the differences between Takahashi, Greer and Gilwood, and the differences between each of the cited references and the pending claims, Applicants respectfully contend that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of the references as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants further submit that there would have been no reasonable expectation of success in making such a putative combination. Applicants further contend that the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, do not render obvious the invention of the pending claims.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi, EP1159995 alone, or Takahashi in view of either Greer or Gilwood, and further in view of Hofstee, U.S. Patent No. 4,000,098 ("Hofstee") and Unger, Chromatographic Science Series 47:585-720 (1990) ("Unger"). The Examiner stated that "[i]t would have been obvious to use benzylamine in Takahashi . . . in view of either [Greer or Gilwood] because Hofstee discloses that benzylamine is interchangeable with secondary amines and because Unger discloses that aromatic amines are anion exchangers." Office Action at page 4 (citations omitted). These statements are traversed.

As discussed above, Takahashi does not teach or suggest the use of a cyclic amine, as required by present claim 1, as amended, from which claim 4 depends. Gilwood and Greer are also discussed above; further, Applicants do not understand Greer or Gilwood to teach or suggest that a substituted cyclic amine can be substituted

by an electron withdrawing group, as recited in claim 4. As Applicants understand the reference, Hofstee discloses matrices useful for hydrophobic interaction chromatography. While the Examiner points to Col. 3, lines 38-64 of Hofstee, Applicants note that this section contains no teaching of the use of cyclic amines in a chromatographic matrix (note that benzylamine, cited by the Examiner, is not a cyclic amine). Thus, the Hofstee reference, whether taken alone or combined with one or more of the remaining cited references, does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

As Applicants understand the reference, the Unger reference is a review. Although the Examiner has cited Unger as teaching that "aromatic amines are anion exchangers," Applicants note that the Examiner has not cited Unger for any teaching of the use of cyclic amines as claimed in present claim 1 (as amended).

None of Takahashi, Greer, Gilwood, Hofstee and Unger, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a porous material comprising a copolymer of at least one hydrophobic monomer and at least one hydrophilic monomer, wherein the copolymer further comprises at least one ion-exchange functional moiety selected from the group consisting of a cyclic tertiary amine and a substituted cyclic amine, as required by claim 1 (from which claim 4 indirectly depends) in which the substituted cyclic amine is substituted by an electron withdrawing group, as required by claim 4. Applicants further contend that the pending claims, including claim 4, are not rendered unpatentable by Takahashi, Greer, Gilwood, Hofstee and Unger, alone or in any combination.

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi alone or in view of Greer or Gilwood, and further in view of Unger. The Examiner stated that "[i]t would have been obvious to react with a haloalkyl in Takahashi . . . in view of either [Greer or Gilwood] because Unger discloses chloromethylating a polymer and reaction with ammonia, a primary amine, or a secondary amine is one way of forming an anion exchanger." Office Action at page 5 (citations omitted). These statements are traversed.

The teachings of Takahashi, Greer, Gilwood and Unger are discussed above. Neither Takahashi, Greer, Gilwood, nor Unger discloses a porous particle comprising a

copolymer of at least one hydrophobic monomer and at least one hydrophilic monomer, wherein the copolymer further comprises at least one ion-exchange functional moiety, and wherein the hydrophobic monomer is substituted by at least one haloalkyl group, and the ion-exchange functional is formed by reaction of the haloalkyl group with a cyclic amine, as required by pending claim 8 (as amended), and claims 9-10 which depend therefrom. Applicants therefore urge that claims 8-10 are not obvious over Takahashi, Greer, Gilwood, or Unger, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claims 1-10, 58, 60, 66, 67 and 69 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over each of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,322,695 ("the '695 patent"), Lee (WO99/64480), in view of either Greer or Gilwood. The Examiner stated that "[i]t would have been obvious to use cyclic tertiary amines or substituted cyclic amines in each of Lee [the '695 patent] or Lee (WO 99/64480) either because Greer discloses [a] cyclic tertiary amine . . . or because Gilwood discloses [a tertiary amine} and [a] cyclic amine substituted with an electron withdrawing chlorine." Office Action at page 6 (some citations omitted). These statements are traversed.

It is noted that the two Lee references appear to be identical in disclosure, and they will therefore be addressed together (hereinafter "the Lee references") unless otherwise noted¹. The Lee references disclose copolymers functionalized with an ion-exchange functional group which can include certain amines; however, the structures of the "ion-exchange functional group" of the Lee references do not include non-quaternized (including tertiary) cyclic amines. Although the Lee references mention that the hydrophilic monomer backbone can comprise a heterocyclic group, including a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group (see, e.g., the '695 patent at Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, line 3), the Lee references do not teach or suggest that the "ion-exchange functional group" includes a cyclic tertiary amine or a substituted cyclic amine, as required by the pending claims.

Applicants respectfully contend that, in view of the differences between Lee, Greer and Gilwood, and the differences between each of the cited references and the pending claims, Applicants respectfully contend that one of ordinary skill in the art

¹ Applicants note that the present application claims priority to the application that matured into the '695 patent, and that the '695 patent is co-owned with the present application. Accordingly, Applicants do not concede that either of the Lee references is prior art.

would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of the references as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants further submit that there would have been no reasonable expectation of success in making such a putative combination. Applicants further contend that the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, do not render obvious the invention of the pending claims.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over each of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,322,695 ("the '695 patent"), Lee (WO99/64480), in view of either Greer or Gilwood, and further in view of Hofstee and Unger. This rejection is traversed.

None of Lee, Greer, Gilwood, Hofstee and Unger, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a porous material comprising a copolymer of at least one hydrophobic monomer and at least one hydrophilic monomer, wherein the copolymer further comprises at least one ion-exchange functional moiety selected from the group consisting of a cyclic tertiary amine and a substituted cyclic amine, as required by claim 1 (from which claim 4 indirectly depends) in which the substituted cyclic amine is substituted by an electron withdrawing group, as required by claim 4. Applicants further contend that the pending claims, including claim 4, are not rendered unpatentable by Lee, Greer, Gilwood, Hofstee and Unger, alone or in any combination.

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over each of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,322,695 ("the '695 patent"), Lee (WO99/64480), in view of either Greer or Gilwood, and further in view of Unger. This rejection is traversed.

None of Lee, Greer, Gilwood, and Unger, alone or in combination, discloses a porous particle comprising a copolymer of at least one hydrophobic monomer and at least one hydrophilic monomer, wherein the copolymer further comprises at least one ion-exchange functional moiety, and wherein the hydrophobic monomer is substituted by at least one haloalkyl group, and the ion-exchange functional is formed by reaction of the haloalkyl group with a cyclic amine, as required by pending claim 8 (as amended), and claims 9-10 which depend therefrom. Applicants therefore urge that claims 8-10 are not obvious over Lee, Greer, Gilwood, or Unger, whether taken alone or in combination.

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §102(b) and/or §103(a) is proper and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections is proper. Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would help expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call either of the undersigned representatives at (617) 239-0100.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge all required fees and any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 60505CIP2(49991). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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